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BOOKS IN REVIEW

Spy Story

By Dulles

Interesting

Reviewed by
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THE CRAFT OF INTELLIGENCE. By Allen Dulles. 277 pp. Illustrated. Harper and Row. \$4.95.

ANY SOVIET AGENTS who have been lurking around bookstores waiting for the appearance of this work by the former head of the C.I.A. have been wasting their time. Bad luck, comrades. You'd do better to wait for the next installment of "Congressional hearings on the defense budget," which has the additional merit of being free.

At one point in his book, Mr. Dulles refers to Daniel Defoe, who, besides being the chronicler of "Robinson Crusoe," was a successful spy and the first chief of an organized British intelligence system. There is nothing about spying in Defoe's books: "Having the inside view, he felt that for security reasons he could not give a true and full story of espionage as it was really practiced in his day."

MR. DULLES has written a book about espionage but, with the exception of a few anecdotes of personal adventure during World War II, it is a book that could as well have been written from an outside, as from an inside, view. There are chapters tracing briefly the history of espionage through the ages and the evolution of "intelligence" in American history (though "evolution" is a rather odd description: General Washington had a well-functioning intelligence system, but from the revolution to World War I the record is almost blank.

and the highly useful "Black Chamber" of code-breakers which emerged during World War I was shut down by Secretary of State Stimson in 1929 because "gentlemen do not read each other's mail").

The greater part of the book deals with the discipline and techniques of intelligence-work—its tradecraft.

"What will not be disclosed here," Mr. Dulles writes, "is where and how and when the tradecraft has been or will be employed in particular operations unless this has already been disclosed elsewhere."

THERE'S A GREAT DEAL of interesting material here, even though much of it is fairly familiar—the work of collecting and analyzing information, the ruses of counterintelligence, the ways in which agents are hired, the dangers and mishaps that have occurred, the operational methods of the "enemy." (Mr. Dulles does, discreetly and designedly, hint that things are going pretty well for our side. "Some of the most important and also some of the most recent defectors have so far chosen not to be 'surfaced' . . . They are making a continual contribution to the inside knowledge of the work of the Soviet intelligence.")

In his closing chapters, the author defends the C.I.A. against some of the charges that have been brought against it, and writes of the role of the security service in a free society. "The Craft of Intelligence" is proof that Allen Dulles himself has the qualities that he looks for in a good intelligence officer, who must "be able to express ideas clearly, briefly and interestingly" and "learn when to keep one's mouth shut."

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